

Bonnie J Callman  
1475 Bailey Hill Rd #101  
Eugene, OR 97402  
Phone: 541-683-8358  
Email: [bjcallman@hotmail.com](mailto:bjcallman@hotmail.com)

Dear Sir/Madam:

I wish to offer an opinion on the proposed FCC roles that will affect listen-supported, non-commercial Christian radio stations that often utilize the less-expensive "translator stations" that receive satellite signals.

I do not wish anyone to apply my thoughts expressed here to ALL Christian radio stations. To be honest there are some Christian radio stations that divide the nation and preach smug self-righteousness, pride – and even broadcast news that is biased and full of lies. I don't listen to those kinds of Christian stations. And as a rule, the Christian stations that offer THAT kind of negative programming are COMMERCIAL stations, well funded – and utilize full-power stations with studios and personnel on site. So your proposed regulations would not affect them.

#### HOW K-LOVE & AIR-1 AFFECT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

But I CAN and DO wish to register an opinion on non-commercial Christian stations such as K-Love and Air-1, owned collectively by EMF Broadcasting. K-Love and Air-1 are irreplaceable! They offer encouragement and inspiration. In a world of corrupt televangelists that preach materialism and selfishness – K-Love and Air 1 STAND OUT as stations that present the LOVE and COMPASSION for others Jesus Christ demonstrated while here on this earth. **The programming on both stations encourages me to volunteer in my community, to give to others, to seek to be kind and patient.** I have several friends that listen to K-Love and Air-1 – and every single one of these people serves at local soup kitchens, helps those around them – and just leaves the local community a much better place!

We get the encouragement and inspiration we need from K-Love and Air-1. Several of my friends and I have gone through some really tough times the past few years – recession, inflation, unemployment, marital struggles – all things that could have caused any one of us to retreat inside ourselves. I went through a period where I woke up every single morning – not really wanting to be alive, wanting to be dead. But K-Love and Air-1 were always on the air on their little scratchy translator stations, always there to give me hope and encouragement, and to inspire me to put my faith in God and keep on living! And to not retreat into selfishness, but to think of others, and seek to be a blessing to those in the local community.

How do you replace that? Yes, K-Love and Air-1 originate from one national center in California. They are not local stations. **But look at how K-Love and Air-1 are AFFECTING our local community here in Eugene and Springfield Oregon! They inspire my friends and I to give to our local community – volunteering at soup kitchens, reaching out to the homeless, working at local counseling and crisis centers, helping our neighbors.** K-Love and Air-1 even raise thousands of dollars for local homeless shelters, etc.

What benefits a local community? Some things are unique to a specific locale. **But...isn't a huge chunk of what ANY community needs – things that are UNIVERSAL? Things like encouragement during times of struggle, inspiration to be a better person, a challenge to serve others?**

If the positive encouragement and daily inspiration to be a better, kinder person and to serve those in our neighborhood and local community comes from someplace in Northern California...does that make it LESS of an essential community resource – simply because it comes from California, and not Eugene, Oregon? I think not.

### **WHY K-LOVE & AIR-1 CAN'T AFFORD ONSITE PERSONNEL, BUILDINGS**

But money is tight.

Any radio station takes money to broadcast. Listener-supported, non-commercial stations depend on donations from people like me – who often don't make a lot of money. So listener-supported stations like K-Love and Air-1 have to be very, very thrifty – and make every dollar stretch. They run on love. They are not rolling in extra money.

THAT is why K-Love and Air-1 utilize little scratchy translator stations. THAT is why they don't have on-site station personnel. They are trying to stretch every dollar – to reach and encourage as large a number of people as possible.

If they spent extra money on hiring on-site station announcers and building physical stations for each translator – they would not be able to encourage as many people. Many stations would go off the air.

Who would suffer? Us locals in Eugene and Springfield Oregon.

And by the way, I have ALWAYS been able to “get through” to K-Love or Air-1 – ANY TIME I had a problem. They have an entire staff in California of counselors and pastors – that will always listen when you are having a crisis, pray with you, and offer counsel.

## SOME POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS

Last night, I did a Google search, trying to better understand what the FCC's concerns were – what you were trying to accomplish with these proposed policies that would create a local advisory board, require station personnel to be on site, and give priority to low-power FM stations that are local.

I'm going to make a stab at listing each one – along with some possible alternative suggestions:

1. It appears the FCC is concerned that local stations serve the community and offer a diverse selection. I've already expressed why I DO feel K-Love and Air-1 serve the local community – with meeting UNIVERSAL needs that ANY community has. Could the FCC merely make sure that OTHER kinds of groups ALSO get access to the airwaves? We have a few very good local non-commercial stations here in Eugene. We also have national public radio – which I also love.

**Why are you making it a choice between EITHER low power local FM stations OR translator stations from outside of the community? Why can't we have some of each?**

2. It appears the FCC wants a local advisory board to offer suggestions to each station – as to how to serve the community. I think that can be a good idea. Certainly if a station is broadcasting false information and lies – disguised as a newscast – THAT is something a local advisory board should address. But...don't you see the dangers and limitations in any local advisory board being able to control what a Christian station broadcasts?

What if some of the people on the board are very anti-Christian? You are dealing with very subjective matters here. There is no clear-cut "right" or "wrong". **Such a board would have to have VERY CLEARLY DEFINED PARAMETERS as to what sorts of misconduct they could address – to make sure that they are not intruding on our constitutional freedom of religion.**

**Do you really want to police such a situation? It sounds like a never-ending hassle. Christian stations need to have a certain amount of independence – because they are dealing with subjective, personal matters of faith.**

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Bonnie J. Callman